

For Immediate Release:

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Hearing: "Ready to Eat or Not?: Examining the Impact of Leafy Green Marketing Agreements"

Date: July 29, 2009, 2:00 p.m.

Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2154

On Wednesday, **July 29, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building,** the Domestic Policy Subcommittee will hold a hearing entitled, "Ready to Eat or Not?: Examining the Impact of Leafy Green Marketing Agreements."

The hearing will examine the safety of ready to eat produce, the successes and challenges posed by the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement (CALGMA), as well as its proposed nationalization. The hearing will focus on bagged or value added leafy greens marketed as "ready to eat," the role of private industry and government in regulating these products, and the economic, environmental, and food safety impacts of that regulation.

The safety of "ready to eat" leafy greens has come under scrutiny after outbreaks of E. coli were traced back to contaminated bagged products, including the 2006 outbreak which resulted in more than 200 hospitalizations, five deaths and nearly \$400 million in losses of produce.

Witness List

Panel One:

Rayne Pegg, Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Mr. Michael R. Taylor,
Senior Advisor to the Commission on Food and Drugs
Food and Drug Administration

Panel Two:

Caroline Smith-DeWaal, Director of Food Science, Center for Science in the Public Interest

Dale Coke, Farmer and Member of Community Alliance with Family Farmers

Scott Horsfall, Chief Executive Officer, California Leafy Greens Marketing Board

Kelly Cobb, Survivor of E. Coli Poisoning

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To view a webcast of the hearing, please click on the link below:

[Click Here](#)

Documents and Links

- [Prepared Testimony of Mr. Dale Coke](#)
- [Prepared Testimony of Mr. E. Scott Horsfall](#)
- [Prepared Testimony of Mr. Michael R. Taylor](#)
- [Prepared Testimony of Ms. Caroline Smith DeWaal](#)

- [Prepared Testimony of Ms. Kelly Cobb](#)
- [Prepared Testimony of Ms. Rayne Pegg](#)
- [Witness List](#)
- [Opening Statement of Chairman Kucinich](#)